

COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Grants Awarded AT 6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON NEIGHBORHOODS AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

Proactive Efforts Draw New Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Services

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During the 6th Annual Conference on Neighborhoods and Code Enforcement, the Neighborhood Services Department sponsored our sixth annual grant cycle. The grant cycle ran from August 1 through September 9, 2004. There were a number of new applicants who had not previously applied, including ten new neighborhood

associations.

William Justice, coordinator for the Cedar Hill Neighborhood Watch, stated that he believes the grant "will improve our already existing group and will make a lasting impact." Amie Bryant-Slack, president of Bellflower Neighborhood Association said that there was now a more "defined sense of neighborhood unity" in their association.

There were a total of 28 grants awarded this year for various neighborhood projects. The grants



Grantees enjoy the "Showcase of Excellence" during the Conference

were presented by City Council Chair Jack Benson, Councilwoman Sally Robinson and Councilman Ron Littlefield, following the first grant symposium sponsored by Neighborhood Services. Forum presenters included Gay Evans, executive director of the Appalachian Community Fund, Vanessa A. Jackson, (cont. pg.2)

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Letter from the Administrator

Dear Neighbor,

There are few voices that capture such a diverse representation of Chattanooga's neighborhoods as our department does. We listen to you and advocate your issues at the appropriate venues.

On October 7-8th, that venue was the 6th Annual Conference on Neighborhoods and Code Enforcement at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Representatives from 180 neighborhoods participated side-by-side with national experts in Code enforcement for two days of learning and sharing.

At the Neighborhood Services Department, we are in the problem-solving business... let us keep hearing from you!

Sincerely,  Administrator



program manager for the Neighborhood Services Department, Pamela Bass Bracher, program officer with the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, and Angie Sledge, executive director of United Way Center for Nonprofits.

Vanessa Jackson said the department "had been extremely proactive in its efforts to draw new neighborhoods into participat-

ing in the grant program." Ms. Jackson explained that with the grants, new neighborhoods would be given the opportunity to strengthen and build their associations.

Grant projects were awarded to several new applicants including the Hispanic Exploratory Committee for the "Plaza Comunitaria" literacy program benefiting Hispanics of all ages living in Highland



Grantees receive their awards at conference

Park. Other grants were awarded for beautification projects that encourage neighborhood involvement and offer visual impact for the community residents.

Ms. Jackson said that grants were awarded to groups that may otherwise be excluded from associations. She also stated that "the youth are the next generation of community builders and the seniors provide a wealth of history and experience." See a list of grantees on page 3...



"Now there's more of a defined sense of Neighborhood unity..."

Amie Bryant-Slack, Bellflower Neighborhood Association

MISSION: POSITIVE IMPACT...

Codes Conference a huge success!

Over 100 codes professionals attended this year's Codes Enforcement tracks of the 6th Annual Conference on Neighborhoods and Code Enforcement. Codes professionals traveled from California, Florida, Wisconsin, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and across Tennessee.

Considered the southeast's premier codes conference event, the intensive two day training focused on technical and management

subjects including neighborhood revitalization tools, performance analysis, historic preservation and methamphetamine labs.



Participants accumulated credits acknowledged by the International Code Council

Chattanooga's Codes conference is accredited by the State of Tennessee and the

International Code Council. Inspectors attend the conference to maintain their certification status as required by the International Code Council and the State of Tennessee.

Attendees not only benefit from the training, but are able to exchange ideas and share successes to take back to their communities.

"These conferences provide vital information and expertise that we can take back to our neighborhoods and use to improve the quality of

life for our citizens", said Steve Hargis, Deputy Administrator of the City of Chattanooga Neighborhood Services Department.

The conference included highlights of programs such as the "Last Chance Campaign" which was a direct result of an exchange of ideas between the City of Chattanooga Neighborhood Services Department and Wisconsin Codes Enforcement partners.

Mr. Hargis commented that "there is a sharing of what works and what does not work in this profession that transcends city, county and state boundaries. Codes inspectors are unceasing in their mission to make a positive impact in our neighborhoods."

C.N.A.C. Participates in Neighborhoods Conference, Builds Relationships

By Bob Graham, President

The Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council was pleased to participate in the Neighborhoods Conference sponsored by the City of Chattanooga Neighborhood Services Department on October 7 and 8 at the Convention Center.

CNAC was able to assist in a leadership seminar along with Diane Parks of the Chamber of Commerce and Mike Shifflet of the Durham, North Carolina Inter-neighborhood Council, which is very similar to our own local Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC).

As always, CNAC invites any and all members of our various 180 local neighborhood associations to attend our monthly meetings which are conducted at the Community Foundation offices at 1270 Market Street. We meet at 6:00PM on the fourth Monday of each month. We look forward to assisting you in strengthening your local Neighborhood Association.

In our October meeting, we met with Steven Neff of the U.S. Attorney General's office regarding reducing major crimes within the Chat-

tanooga area. We also discussed plans for conducting inner-city surveys designed to gain insight into and eliminate predatory lending.

CNAC has been able to participate in many activities which can impact our neighborhoods and offer input in order to achieve positive outcomes. We need you to attend our monthly meetings in order to protect and enhance our local neighborhoods. We also look forward to meeting with you regarding filling any current vacancies for our Board.

For more information, please call CNAC president Bob Graham at 423-629-8827.

Neighborhood Grantees, 2004

1. Lookout Valley
2. Lake Chickamauga Community
3. Ashwood Homeowners Association
4. Hamilton Mills
5. Willow Trace
6. Indian Hills
7. Washington Hills
8. Bellflower Circle
9. Cedar Hill Watch
10. Alton Park Development Corp.
11. East Lake
12. Ridgedale
13. St. Elmo Improvement League
14. St. Elmo/ Alton Park Partners
15. Bushtown Neighborhood
16. Clifton Hills
17. New Jefferson Heights CDC
18. Oak Grove
19. Thankful CDC
20. Avondale Neighborhood
21. East Chattanooga
22. Glenwood Neighborhood Association
23. Glenwood Neighborhood Watch
24. Hope for Chattanooga
25. Missionary Ridge
26. Orchard Knob Watch
27. Riverside Area Community Club
28. Hispanic Exploratory Committee

Upcoming Events

November:

- 4 CDBG Application Workshop
- 4- Dec16 CDBG Application period
- 15 Neighborhood Grant Orientation Session
- 18-21 30th Annual Legislative Retreat and Training Conference
- 18 CNAC Meeting
- 22 CNAC Meeting
- 25 Thanksgiving

December:

- 9 Community Foundation Fund for Chattanooga 2005 Guideline Info Session
- 13 CNAC Christmas Party
- 16 CNAC Meeting
- 20 CNAC Meeting
- 25 Christmas Day

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT



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